



## **SOLAR Day held at Stennis, Dryden, Langley and Goddard**

### **Special points of interest:**

- A SOLAR Day is an exhibit and briefing, usually set up in a cafeteria or auditorium.
- "This type of marketing not only contributes to the Agency's promotion of e-learning, but personally provides me assistance in informing employees about employee development in general."

The SOLAR team has been busy visiting the NASA centers this spring. In the past couple of months, four centers—Stennis, Dryden, Langley, and Goddard—hosted a "SOLAR Day."

A SOLAR Day is an exhibit and briefing, usually set up in a cafeteria or auditorium. The purpose is to provide briefings to employees and managers, hand out informational brochures and promotional items, and ultimately bring awareness of e-learning across the agency—with special emphasis on courses and resources available on SOLAR.

During SOLAR Day at Dryden, the team delivered four briefings, provided hands-on demonstrations on laptop computers, and handed out informational brochures. SOLAR pens—a popular promotional item that includes the SOLAR url—were a hot item for those coming to the exhibit!

The training community has been very posi-

tive and supportive of this outreach effort.

*"Even though you may not have had a very large group of employees attend, the folks you actually touched came back so positively enthusiastic about SOLAR and its future. People actually commented that the briefing portion was very informative without being too technical and having the hands on and the display made for a well rounded workshop. This type of marketing not only contributes to the Agency's promotion of e-learning, but personally provides me assistance in informing employees about employee development in general."*

said Cecilia Cordova, Training Officer at Dryden.

In the next couple of months the team will be visiting Glenn, Ames, Kennedy, Johnson, and Headquarters.



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## **New Wireless Communications Technology Courses on SOLAR**

SOLAR is pleased to announce the addition of thirty one wireless communications technology courses. The courses, designed for both technical and non-technical staff, provide a wide-range of training topics.

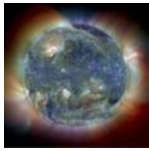
You may access the courses by selecting the [Wireless Communications Technologies](#) link in the "Training Disciplines" page on SOLAR. Be sure to also check out the [Ossidian\\* Course Catalog](#) under "related resources" to view the summary and learning objectives for each course.

The following courses are available now:

ATM Fundamentals Module 1 V2.04b  
ATM Fundamentals Module 2 V2.02b  
ATM Over Satellite Module 1 V2.01a  
ATM Over Satellite Module 2 V2.01a  
CDMA Technology V2.02b  
DVB-S Fundamentals V1.01a  
GPRS Fundamentals V1.05b  
GPRS Engineering V1.04b  
GSM Air Interface V2.05b  
GSM Fundamentals V2.05b  
GSM Signaling & Protocols- Architecture V1.02b  
GSM Signaling & Protocols- Procedures V1.03b

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## Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Course in Development



A new course designed for Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) and Affirmative Procurement (buying recycled) will be offered on SOLAR this summer. The intended audience for this web-based module will be applica-

ble NASA and contractor procurement, environmental, and program office officials. The objective is to educate those with Federal buying power to follow the EPA's "buy-recycled" requirements and NASA's guidance on EPP. .

The course is designed to increase knowledge of EPP and provide

tools to facilitate compliance.

For further information, please contact:

Shannah Trout  
Recycling and Affirmative Procurement  
KSC Principal Center  
(321) 867-8443  
Shannah.Trout-1@ksc.nasa.gov

## Disability Accessibility Training Program\*

The Offices of Equal Opportunity Programs and Human Resources are jointly developing a comprehensive Agency-wide Disability Accessibility Training Program.

To this end, a NASA Disability Training Team has been established by the NASA Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. The team is comprised of members from Headquarters Operations, Human Resources, Information Technology, Management Systems, Procurement, and Public Affairs.

The purpose of the training program is to provide accessibility education and awareness training and to address managerial and supervisory responsibilities related to the Disability Program.

The Disability Accessibility Training Program is comprised of three components:

Phase 1: Web-Based Training for all NASA employees, which premiered in March 2002. Phase 2: Part 1, Web Based Training, to premiere in 2003 and Part 2,

class-room based for all NASA managers and supervisors, to premiere during the spring of 2004. Phase 3: Class-room based training for NASA 1<sup>st</sup> line supervisors and program specialists, including equal opportunity, human resources, information technology, and facilities, to premiere in FY 2004.

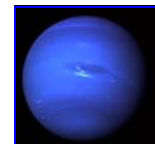
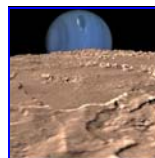
For further information, please contact Lynda Sampson at (202) 358-0938.

(\* The following article, which appeared in the March issue, incorporates the corrections submitted. We apologize for any misinformation.)

## New Wireless Communications Technology Courses on SOLAR (cont'd)

Introduction to Data communication V1.0b  
Introduction to Digital Broadcasting V1.02a  
Introduction to Mobile Data V1.0b  
Telecommunication V1.0b  
Introduction to Wireless V1.01b  
IPv6 Fundamentals V1.01a  
IPv6 Advanced V1.01a  
Satellite Billing and Rating Fundamentals V1.01  
Setting Tariffs for IP V1.01a  
Telecommunications Customer Care V1.06a  
Telecommunications Revenue Assurance V1.04a  
UMTS Air interface V2.13b  
UMTS End-to-End Scenarios V1.0b  
UMTS Fundamentals V2.07b

UMTS Signaling Framework V1.0b  
UMTS Signaling Procedures V1.0b  
WAP Fundamentals V3.01b  
Wireless Billing & Rating Fundamentals V1.01a  
Wireless Billing & Rating Advanced V1.0a



\*Ossidian Technologies Ltd. is the course developer. The courses were originally developed for the European Space Agency.

## The Role of E-Learning-Part III-*E-Learning at NASA*

*(This is the last article of a three part series on e-learning. Part I focused on America's vision for it's workforce. Part II discussed NASA's E-learning Strategic Plan. Part III discusses how NASA's plan ties directly to all e-learning projects and initiatives in 2003.)*

### *The Plan:*

In the summer of 2001, NASA's Training Centers formally began an initiative to establish cohesive and organized approaches to address e-learning at the agency. The initial goal of this program was to identify NASA Center and agency requirements through the establishment of a NASA e-Learning Steering Committee.

Since August of 2001, the committee has met on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss a wide range of e-learning topics that include content vendors, new learning technologies, SOLAR updates, and site-specific e-learning information.

One of the first accomplishments of the Steering Committee was the writing and adoption of the *NASA e-Learning Strategic Plan*. The purpose of the plan was to identify

strategies and target milestones that chart a course to achieve a NASA e-learning vision.

Following numerous drafts and re-writes, the plan was formally adopted by the Steering Committee in March of 2002. Included in the plan was the identification of strategies to establish partnerships across Centers to promote and develop the use of cost-effective technologies; goals to provide learners increased access to training programs utilizing the web, CBT, satellite broadcasts and DVD courseware; and the identification of incentives to motivate employees to experiment and test on-line courses.

Early on the committee recognized that for e-learning to succeed at NASA, buy-in was needed from top level management and the technical community. In addition, the unique requirements of each NASA center had to be recognized and understood.

### *The Committee:*

As a result, today the committee consists of over 40 members, including NASA civil servants and contractors representing every NASA Training Center, as well as

representatives from the NASA IT community and functional Management.

Currently the committee is asking representatives from each Center to provide the committee with information on their Center's specific e-learning programs, resources, success stories, and lessons learned.

In addition to Center specific presentations, e-learning vendors—including Books 24x7, SkillSoft, Element K—as well as federal government programs and resources, will be topics of discussion in the coming months.

The Steering Committee is also following closely the activities the Gov Online Learning Center, a Government-wide resource that supports development of the Federal workforce through simplified and one-stop access to e-learning products and services.

As new products and services are added, the committee is investigating strategies to leverage this resource in a manner that makes sense for NASA's training communities. Additionally, the committee is working with the InsideNASA Portal initiative and investigating

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## SOLAR Single Sign On Feature Released to Reviewers

The Single Sign On (SSO) feature has been released to reviewers on the SOLAR Review site. The feature allows users to access multiple learning web applications through a single login function. In addition to providing a single entry point, the SSO application will be the controlling application for establishing and maintaining learner

accounts to be used by these applications and the AdminSTAR client-server application. The SSO capability provides additional benefits to the AdminSTAR Administrators as they will be able to use their SSO User ID and Password to log into AdminSTAR using the current login screen. The interface will send test results from

SOLAR to the learner's training records in AdminSTAR, providing a single source for training records.

**"THE SINGLE SIGN ON CAPABILITY PROVIDES ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO THE ADMINSTAR ADMINISTRATORS"**



<https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov>

## Customer Service

Need help using the system to access or complete courses?

Contact the Help Desk at:

Help Desk (256) 544-7600  
Toll Free (866) 419-6297  
Email: [solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov)

Interested in using SOLAR for your training needs?  
Please contact:

Dr. Tony Lopez (858) 495-0508

For technical development questions, please contact:

Marisa Wofford (256) 544-7482  
Terry Carlson (256) 544-2461

Newsletter Publication:

Mercedes Sironi  
NASA e-Learning Program Administrator  
Telephone: (858) 495-0508  
E-mail: [msironi@htshq.com](mailto:msironi@htshq.com)

## The Role of E-learning-Part III *e-Learning at NASA-cont'd*

ways to use this technology as a means to aggregate access to e-learning resources at NASA through the implementation of an e-Learning Portal.

### *The System:*

The Safety and Mission Assurance office at Headquarters instituted one of NASA's initial e-learning projects. Its aim was to develop, institutionalize, and improve comprehensive training and development programs for a geographically dispersed safety and quality assurance workforce.

The decision was made to pursue an IBT/WBT system. The Site for Online Learning and Resources (SOLAR) was officially debuted to

the safety and mission assurance staff during the spring of 1997.

Today, it is a centralized gateway providing on-demand access to just-in-time web-based training and job support reference materials. The site offers online courses, course catalogs, curricula, and information resources on multiple subjects. Training is currently being conducted in ethics, export control, financial and resource management, human resources, information technology security, occupational health, and safety and mission assurance. In addition, wireless communication technologies, office productivity, computer, and business courses are available online.

(Note: The next issue will highlight center-specific e-learning efforts.)  
(Article submitted by Dan Costello)

## Letter from the Editor

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the NASA e-



Learning Newsletter. The previous issues are available online at the SOLAR website:

<https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov>

If you'd like to submit an article, please contact Mercedes Sironi at [msironi@htshq.com](mailto:msironi@htshq.com). The next publication is due in July.